

On another note, this conference report provides only one-third of the funds requested by the administration for the President's Lands Legacy Initiative. This initiative is used to purchase lands that protect national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges which add significantly to the beauty and capacity of our national parks and forests. I believe that the Lands Legacy Initiative is a good program and that this conference report threatens to derail the administration's efforts to promote environmental preservation.

Additionally, the conference report contains several anti-environmental riders. Among these riders is a provision that rewrites the 1872 mining law to allow mill operators to dump toxic mining wastes on sites larger than 5 acres without being subject to environmental restrictions. Moreover, this report precludes the Interior Department's regulation that imposes more stringent cleanup responsibilities on mine operations being conducted on public lands and weakens current laws for forest management by instituting a 1-year moratorium on regulations intended to improve environmental compliance in the operation of hardrock mines.

The conferees also added an anti-environmental rider in the conference report that involves rural agricultural lands. This provision would allow for grazing permits to be automatically granted 10-year renewals regardless of whether or not environmental impact studies have been completed. The effect of this provision would prove extremely harmful to grazing land and its surrounding environment.

Furthermore, the report blocks the Interior Department's regulation that requires major oil companies to pay closer to the fair value of oil pumped on public lands and waters. This practice ends up costing the taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

Finally, this report fails to adequately provide funding for culturally important organizations to encourage development in the field of arts. Both the National Endowment for Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) are funded at much less than the President's request of \$150 million each. Conferees provided \$115.7 million for NEH and only \$98 million for NEA. Without adequate funding, projects that focus on public education, understanding and appreciation of arts, including drama, music, art, and literature will face serious cutbacks.

Mr. Speaker, I am frustrated and disappointed that this conference report contains numerous provisions that undermine environmental protections and funding for cultural programs and I urge my colleagues to oppose final passage. If this report passes, I urge the President to veto this legislation so that we may have another opportunity to correct this seriously flawed bill.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT RICHARD
"DICK" BRICKMAN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous career of Sergeant

Richard "Dick" Brickman. On January 3rd, 2000, Sergeant Brickman will retire from the Hollywood, Florida, Police Department after 30 remarkable years of service. Sergeant Brickman will be sorely missed by the State of Florida's law enforcement community.

Originally beginning his career in 1969 as a Road Patrol Officer, Dick Brickman has held countless positions in the Hollywood Police Department. Detective Sergeant, Patrol Sergeant, Operations Sergeant—these are some of the positions which Dick has held since being promoted in 1975. Throughout his tenure with the Hollywood Police Department, Dick has been at the forefront of innovative approaches to law enforcement. Sergeant Brickman was instrumental in implementing the "Operation Reindeer" program, a program that assigned officers to the roof tops of businesses and malls during the holiday season. Aimed at preventing seasonal crimes and apprehending criminals, this valuable and effective program has lasted 10 years and will stand as a testament to Sergeant Brickman's hard work and dedication to the Hollywood Police Department.

In addition to his outstanding work with the Hollywood Police Department, Sergeant Dick Brickman has demonstrated tremendous leadership in both local and State-wide law enforcement associations. In December 1979, Sergeant Brickman was elected President of the Broward County Police Benevolent Association (PBA), an organization which represents over 2,300 law enforcement officers in Broward County, Florida. He has been subsequently re-elected as President for seven 3-year terms. In addition, Dick also continues to serve on the Executive Board of the State of Florida PBA, an organization that represents more than 31,000 members of the law enforcement community statewide.

Dick is an atypical individual in the sense that he is a native Floridian who exhibits strong ties to the South Florida community. Born in Miami, he has spent his entire life in South Florida. Throughout the past six years, he has remained active in the community volunteering his time as the girls softball coach for the City of Hollywood. Sergeant Brickman has also volunteered his time as coach of the girls softball team at South Broward High School. Indeed, Sergeant Brickman's devotion to the South Florida community is nothing short of outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Sergeant Brickman for his tremendous work on behalf of the State of Florida and the entire South Florida Community. As Sergeant Richard "Dick" Brickman retires from the Hollywood Police Department to close this important chapter of his life, I would also like to extend my best wishes for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1999 NATIONAL
MERIT SCHOLARS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor a group of com-

mitted and accomplished students who were recently honored for their achievements in the 1999 National Merit Scholarship Competition. These students embody everything that is good with our youth today and are exceedingly worthy of our highest regards and praise.

From a field of over 1 million students that entered the Merit Program last year, Meg Patton, Matthew Thomas, Megan McGill, and Jeff Ward finished in the top 1% of entrants. For their remarkable scholastic achievement, each were recently recognized as National Merit Program semi-finalists. These incredibly talented students are now competing for one of 7,400 National Merit Scholarships awarded to the finest students in the country. Whether or not these students ultimately win the Merit Scholarship, each are among the finest in the nation and should take great pride in receiving this weighty accolade.

In addition, Juli Carillo, Erin Lindsey, Anthony Arcieri, Ksenya Gurshtein, Naomi Habbegger, Rachel Wilkenson, and Jeremiah Goodson were awarded letters of commendation for finishing in the top 5% of students who entered the competition. Like the semi-finalists, these students are to be commended for the lofty level of academic success they have achieved.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to these outstanding students on receiving an honor that they clearly deserve. Because of committed and talented young men and women like these, I know that America's future will be as bright as its remarkable past.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CHINESE AMERICAN VET-
ERANS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifices and contributions made by Chinese Americans during World War II.

Today, many of these brave men and women who served with pride during that time are gathering in Washington to remember their war years and the experiences that changed their lives forever. And tonight, the Organization of Chinese Americans, together with the Asian Pacific American Studies Program of the Smithsonian Institution, is sponsoring the world premiere of the documentary "We Served with Pride: The Chinese American Experience in World War II". The documentary is a first hand look at the personal experiences of Chinese Americans during the war.

I hope these efforts will help reverse an unfortunate situation. Despite their sacrifices, the service of Chinese American veterans during World War II is not well known to most Americans. More than 20,000 Chinese Americans served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war, in almost every imaginable capacity. Without question, their sacrifices and distinguished efforts helped push our nation on to victory over the Axis powers.

Their pride is justified. The contributions they made in every theater of the war should